

ORIGINAL PROJECT GOALS

Overarching Goal:

To create a mosaic of interconnected public and private projects to restore the natural environment, enhance recreation opportunities, and provide flood management along the river, in a manner compatible with private interests.

Project Objectives:

- Maintain the Coalition as a forum for coordination of projects along the river and collaboration among the involved entities and individuals for support and guidance in implementing projects.
- Develop an Integrated Plan for the Tuolumne River Coalition
- Take advantage of the process of developing an Integrated Plan to engage even more members of the community in watershed management in the Lower Tuolumne watershed, and in this way to build local networks and capacity.

METHODS AND TOOLS

Monthly meetings of the Tuolumne River Coalition Steering Committee

- Basis for all other work

Integrated Plan Development

- Subgroup worked specifically on Plan Development
- Evaluated existing plans relevant to river-related topics
 - Riparian habitat
 - Recreation
 - Public access
 - Water supply
 - Water quality
 - Floodplain and floodwater management
 - Geomorphology
 - Aquatic species
 - terrestrial species
 - Land use
 - Stewardship and education
- Recommended implementation strategies and identified
- Future project opportunities

Public Outreach

- Create outreach materials
 - Brochure
 - Poster
 - project descriptions
 - power point presentation
- One-on-one interviews
- Two Public Workshops

OUTLINE OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

1. Introduction
2. A Guiding Vision for the Lower Tuolumne River
3. Analysis of Existing Plans and Reports: Shared Goals and Potential Conflicts
4. River Enhancement Strategies and Future Project Opportunities
5. Implementation Actions and Tools for Moving Forward

Tuolumne River Coalition Steering Committee, formed October, 2000

City of Ceres

City of Modesto

City of Waterford

East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District

Friends of the Tuolumne

Modesto Irrigation District

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Sierra Club, Yokuts Group

Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Department

Tuolumne River Regional Park

Tuolumne River Trust

Turlock Irrigation District

Cooperating Agencies

California Bay-Delta Authority

California Department of Fish and Game

City of Ceres, Parks, Recreation, and Facilities

City of Modesto, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department

Stanislaus County Organization of Governments

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

US Dept of Commerce-National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

US Fish and Wildlife Service-Anadromous Fish Restoration Program

US Fish and Wildlife Service-San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge

THE TUOLUMNE RIVER COALITION'S GUIDING FRAMEWORK FOR THE LOWER TUOLUMNE RIVER PARKWAY

VISION

The Lower Tuolumne River Parkway is a vibrant, healthy river corridor providing multiple community benefits

GOALS

Enhance, protect and restore habitat that supports natural resources and river function

Extend and protect open space along the river

Expand and enhance public access and recreational opportunities where appropriate

Protect the floodplain from intensive development

Respect existing development, land ownership, and water use

Support and develop riparian buffers

Provide flood management benefits

Enhance water quality

Build upon and integrate existing plans relevant to the Lower Tuolumne River

Support the development of a mosaic of public and private projects and programs

Increase river-focused educational programs

RIVER ENHANCEMENT STRATEGIES

Identify Multi-Objective Projects in Urban and Rural Reaches of the River

Support the Coordination of a Water Quality Monitoring and Enhancement Program

Identify Potential Natural Area and Working Landscapes Opportunities

Implement Habitat Restoration Projects

Increase Recreation Opportunities

Enhance and Expand Public River Access Points

Provide Information and Support for a Scenic Trailway Compatible with Private Interests

Study and Recommend Best Management Practices Regarding the Use of Boats

Create Lower Tuolumne River Parkway Maps and Signage

Develop a Lower Tuolumne River Parkway Interpretive Program

Enhance Cleanliness, Safety and Security for the Users of the Lower Tuolumne River Parkway and Surrounding Communities

Continue Public Outreach and Involvement

What Worked, What Didn't

What Worked

- Continuing the Coalition as a forum for coordination
- Bringing controversial issues to a “roundtable discussion”
- Maintaining the Coalition through difficult issues (nearly 5 years)
- Analyzing multiple plans for shared goals, potential
- conflicts, and information gaps
- Identifying general priorities for project types
- Packaging projects as a “River Parkway”
- Undertaking outreach to local government officials
- Holding public workshops

What Didn't Work

- Some inter-organizational issues remain unresolved (e.g. no final Operating Procedures)
- Some topics remain balkanized (i.e. there are still areas that are the “turf” of one organization or another)
- Unable to prioritize specific projects
- One-on-one interviews had limited success

Benefits for Watershed Management Decisions

- Maintained a forum to discuss river-related issues
- Cultivated mutual support for member projects
- “River Parkway” concept for packaging river-related issues...if appropriate community outreach to landowners and the general public is employed
- Produced a vision for the river
- Developed river enhancement strategies
- Created priorities of general project types
- Created an information source for decision-makers
- Increased attention to the river at local, State, and Federal levels

Contributions to CALFED

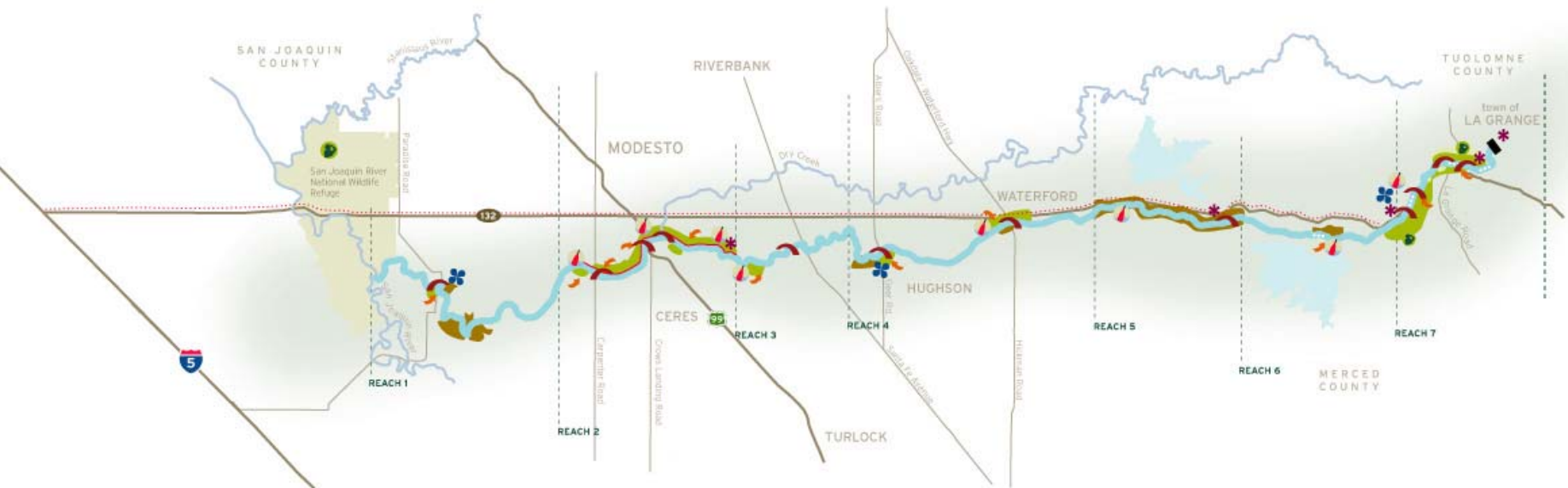
- Nourished an inter-agency collaborative effort amongst local, State, and Federal agencies and private organizations
- Emphasized multi-objective projects
- Coordinated river-restoration efforts with water supply and water quality efforts
- Incorporated restoration, water supply, and water quality considerations into recreation projects
- Member projects will all, in general, contribute to improved Bay-Delta water quality
- Created a strong foundation for riparian restoration
- Building the informed citizenry through education and outreach that will support and engage in watershed stewardship and management activities to further the CALFED objectives
- Positioned members to be competitive for applicable grant programs

The Lower Tuolumne River Parkway is:

A collection of projects along the river that are not continuous, from La Grange Dam to the confluence with the San Joaquin River

A combination of public and private restoration activities to enhance habitat and provide public use opportunities that are compatible with existing private interests

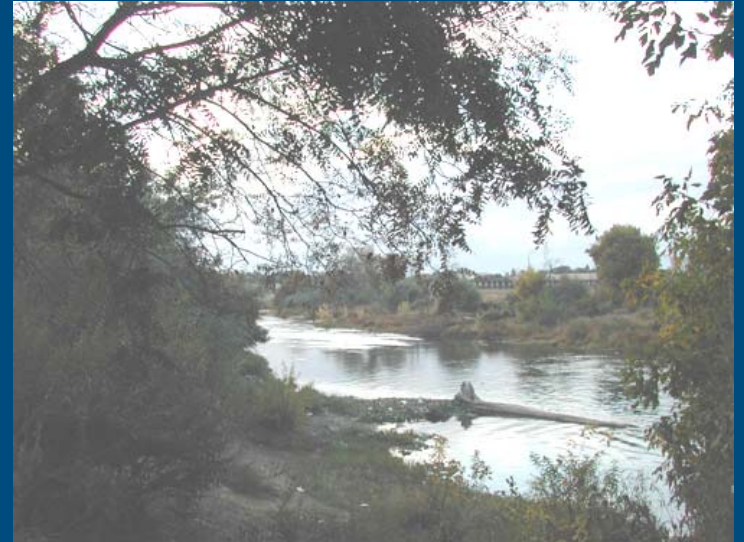
The Lower Tuolumne River Parkway



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1. Identify Multi-Objective Projects in Urban and Rural Reaches of the River

- Develop an outreach program for urban landowners
- Facilitate assessments of Dry Creek water quality
- Prioritize key river access sites in the urban reaches



2. Support the Coordination of Water Quality Monitoring and Enhancement Program

- Support a comprehensive, on-going assessment of water quality in the Tuolumne and its tributaries
- Include water reclamation, filter and riverbank restoration projects
- Initiate a tributary restoration program
- Spearhead or partner with a stream-watcher program



3. Identify Potential Natural Area and Working Landscapes Projects

- Inventory and map all existing open space areas
- Compile and distribute potential guidelines for prioritizing, acquiring, and maintaining open space areas



4. Implement Habitat Restoration Projects

- Develop criteria for prioritizing opportunities
- Update opportunities from the Habitat Restoration Plan
- Develop recommendations for working with public and private landowners
- Launch demonstration sites at the Wildlife Refuge
- Identify opportunities for enhancing spawning habitat, riparian habitat, and recreation in the gravel-bedded reaches



5. Increase Recreation Opportunities

- Support or conduct a region-wide recreation needs survey
- Identify areas where additional public lands could be acquired



6. Enhance and Expand Public River Access Points

- Use public outreach strategies to help clean, maintain, and promote existing river access sites
- Support the implementation of enhanced security and patrols
- Sponsor or support boating, games, and other community events at existing access sites



7. Provide Information and Support for Scenic Trailway Areas on Public Lands

- Promote a bike lane along Scenic Highway 132
- Identify all existing and potential bicycle and pedestrian paths
- Create a trailway map and identify the trailway on Parkway signage



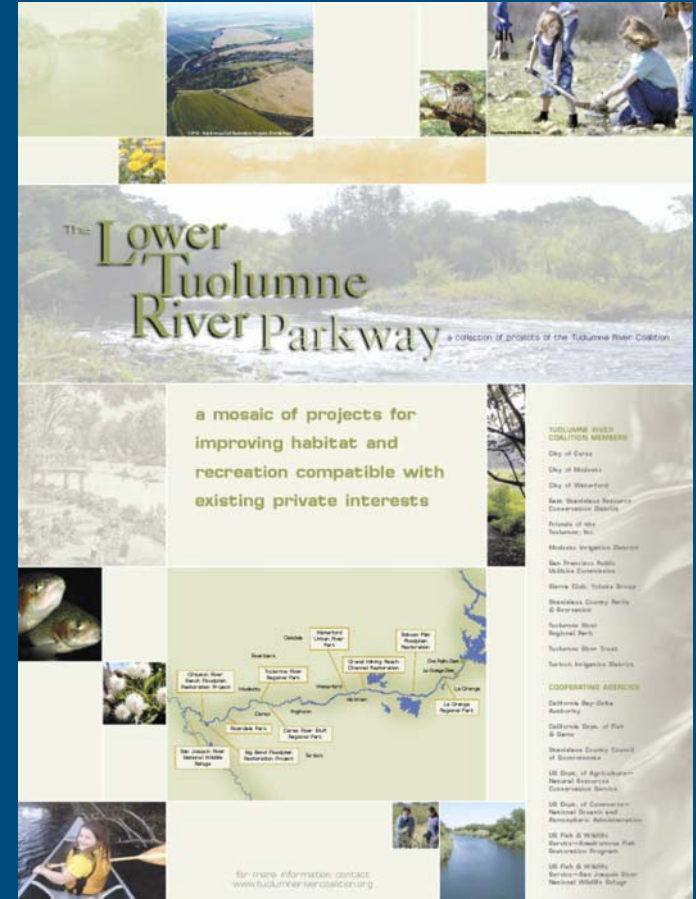
8. Study and Recommend Best Management Practices Regarding the Use of Boats

- Evaluate watercraft policy guidelines
- Support additional canoe access sites to expand the “canoe trail”
- Identify all put-in or take-out sites on Parkway maps, signs, and guidebooks
- Host fall canoe trips to view spawning salmon and other trips when possible



9. Create Lower Tuolumne River Parkway Maps and Signage

- **Create a Parkway image and identity program including a common logo and graphics**
- **Develop and distribute a Parkway recreation and use guidebook**



10. Develop a Lower Tuolumne River Parkway Interpretive Program

- Support the development of an interpretive center and trails
- Develop interpretive signage
- Compile written educational materials



11. Enhance Cleanliness, Safety and Security for Users of the Parkway and Surrounding Communities

- Partnerships with law enforcement
- Volunteer Program that includes river clean-ups and adopt-a-river-mile
- Parkway security and patrol program



12. Continue Public Outreach and Involvement

- Develop education and outreach programs, including:
 - Volunteer Program
 - Community updates through a newsletter, website, brochure, and other materials
 - Public interest pieces concerning the river
 - Regional and statewide inventories
 - Master map of the Parkway

